Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100143
ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02
INR-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 EUR-08 PRS-01 L-01
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DRAFTED BY AF/W:DVKILLION:WLK
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
AF/C:EMARKS
IO/UNP:JTEFFT
S:DSPEGEL
S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN
S/S-S:MEDENHAM
----------040136Z 118716 /73
P 032306Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100143

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ,FO,, CG, SG, US, XJ

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT SENGHOR

REF: DAKAR 2665

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO
PRESIDENT SEHGDHOR

2. 'DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF
APRIL 14, REGARDING RECENT EVENTS IN AFRICA, WHICH
THREATEN THE PEACE, STABILITY, AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOP-
MENT OF THE CONTINENT.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 100143

"YOU SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED YOUR CONCERN THAT, ALTHOUGH
THE WEST HAS NOT REMAINED INDIFFERENT TO THE AGGRESSION
AGAINST ZAIRE, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN RETICENT IN
ITS SUPPORT OF THAT GOVERNMENT. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU
THAT WE SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. WE
BELIEVE THAT OUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO ZAIRE'S REQUIRE-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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MENTS AT THE TIME OF THE SHABA INVASION WAS APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR LONGSTANDING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE AND WE INTEND AS BEFORE TO GIVE ZAIRE OUR POLITICAL SUPPORT.

"OUR SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE PARALLELS AFRICAN CONCERNS FOR THE SAME PRINCIPLE. AS WE LOOK TO AFRICAN SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS, WE WELCOME THE MEDIATION EFFORT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA. OUR MEASURED ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO AIDING ZAIRE DURING THE SHABA CRISIS WERE IN GREAT PART DESIGNED TO GIVE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. OUR AIRLIFT OF NON-LETHAL MILITARY ITEMS, I BELIEVE, HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. I HAVE NOTED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SEND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE, WHICH I REGARD AS AN APPROPRIATE AND PRAISEWORTHY STEP TO MEET ZAIRE'S NEEDS.

"YOUR LETTER ALSO REFERRED TO A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG THAT IT WOULD NOT BE SERIOUS IF THE AFRICAN STATES CHOSE A POLICY OF MARXISM-LENINISM, PROVIDED THAT THEY CONTINUED TO TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES. I BELIEVE THAT THIS STATEMENT AND OTHER SIMILARLY ATTRIBUTED STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT 'COMMUNISTS IN AFRICA PRESENT NO DANGER' SERIOUSLY MISREPRESENT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VIEWS ON AFRICA AND THE ACTUAL STATE-MENTS HE HAS MADE. HE DID, IN AN APRIL 11 PRESS SESSION, COMMENT THAT 'WE DO ALMOST EVERYTHING SO MUCH BETTER THAN THEY (THE COMMUNISTS) THE SOONER THE FIGHTING STOPS
CONFIDENTIAL

AND THE TRADING BEGINS THE QUICKER WE WIN.' I REGRET THE PRESS DISTORTION OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT. AMBASSA-DOR YOUNG AND I SHARE A COMMON POSITION ON AFRICA. WE SHARE YOUR OWN CONCERN REGARDING SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THAT CONTINENT, AND WE SUPPORT RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT. OUR EVOLVING AFRICAN POLICY IS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY OF THE AREA, TO SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES, AND TO ASSIST IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

"IN CLOSING, PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR THOUGHTFUL VIEWS ON AFRICAN, MIDDLE EAST, AND OTHER WORLD PROBLEMS. I TRUST THAT THE DIRECT COMMUNICATION WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WILL ASSIST US BOTH IN DEALING WITH THESE COMPLEX ISSUES. SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE."

VANCE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770155-0616
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770598/aaaadhda.tel
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Subject: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT SENGHOR
TAGS: PFOR, PSDC, CG, SG, US, XJ, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR), (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: DAKAR
Type: TE
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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